filed an appeal before the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) against the winding up notice issued by the BIFR and the AAIFR has stayed the winding up notice issued by the BIFR.

(c) and (d) The BGML floated global tender on 1st July, 1994 for the setting up of a project for recovery of gold through treatment of tailings. In response, quotations from five parties including Mining Project Investors Pvt. Ltd., Australia, and Cluff Resources Pacific Ltd., Australia, were received. However, on evaluation of the quotations and further consideration, BGML decided not to act upon these offers.

White Paper on Present Status of Public Enterprises

*314. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand from many quarters that Government should present a White Paper on the present status of public enterprises;

(b) whether Standing Committee of Public Enterprises has also asked for it and demanded removal of ambiguity on basic aspects of functional autonomy of public enterprises in the context of current liberalisation of economy; and

(c) whether Government will appoint professional experts as members of the Board of Directors of public sector enterprises to bring about efficiency in their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Appointment of professional experts as members of the Board of Directors of public sector enterprises is an accepted policy of the Government and has been in existence for the last several years.

NMDFC for Promoting Skill Development and Self Employment Among Minorities

*315. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up in 1994 for promoting skill development and self employment activities among minorities;

(b) if so, the details of the activities taken up so far by the Corporation and the number of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(c) the schemes proposed to be taken up during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Ministry of Welfare had set up an apex Financial Corporation, namely National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation on 30.9.94 for providing concessional finance to eligible minority beneficiaries for setting up self employment ventures and to assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills for proper and efficient management of production units.

(b) The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation has been providing loans for self-employment activities to the members of minorities living below double the poverty line at concessional rates of interest. There are two loan Schemes; Term loan & Margin Money loan Scheme, operated through the State Channelising Agencies nominated by respective State/UT Govts. Under the Term loan Scheme, loan to the extent of 85% of project cost is provided at a rate of interest of 7% p.a. and Under Margin Money Scheme, loan to the extent of 25% of project cost is provided at the rate of 3% p.a. State-

wise details of beneficiaries financed is as under:

Sl. No.	State	No. of beneficiaries financed (Upto 28.2.97)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2080
2.	Haryana	263
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	230
4.	Kerala	1678
5.	Karnataka	3485
6.	Maharashtra	850
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1677
8.	Mizoram	50
9.	Punjab	703
10.	Tamil Nadu	1000
11.	Uttar Pradesh	9480
	TOTAL:	21496

(c) During 1997-98, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation will further Consolidate the implementation of existing Schemes. The Government has recently approved the enhancement of term loan limit from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakhs, which will be implemented in 1997-98.

Temporary or Fresh Registration of Tobacco Farmers

*316. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board receives applications from farmers in West Godavari district for temporary or fresth registrations every year;

(b) if so, the response of the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that proper and prompt enqury has not been done in respect of applicants from Dippakayapadu and other tobacco growing villages in West Godavari district; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to rectify such lapes alongwith the full measures proposed for this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The registration of tobacco growers is governed by Section 10 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and Rule 33 and 33A of the Tobacco Board Rules. Tobacco Board had received 6937 applications for registration of growers in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1996-97, out of which registration was granted to 6217 growers as per the aforementioned provisions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Filling up the Vacant Posts meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes

*317. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the post-wise break-up of reserved posts for SCs and STs lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry till date;

(b) the full details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to clear the backlog of reserved posts in various categories and for promoting the SC/ST employees in accordance with the reservation rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The details regarding the backlog vacancies for SC/ST in various categories and the action taken for clearing the backlog are indicated below:—

1. MINISTRY OF COAL

In the Ministry of Coal, only one backlog vacancy in the post of an Assistant (Group 'B') belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category is to be filled up.